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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SACRED LITERATURE.

The Work of the Past Year. Although the present organization dates from October, 1889, the work of the Institute has been carried on under different forms of organization, but with the same Principal, and with the same, though ever broadening, purposes and field of work, since December, 1880, when the first course of study in Hebrew by correspondence was announced. The last Institute year closed September 30, and from the Principal's Annual Report the most of the following facts are gleaned.

The Correspondence Department. While the Institute has enlarged its sphere of usefulness in several directions, individual correspondence instruction still remains one of the leading features of its work. The single course in Hebrew, however, has grown until, for the past year, *twelve courses* have been in actual operation, four being in Hebrew with a membership, at the end of the year, of 448, one in Arabic with three students, two in New Testament Greek with 158 members, and five in the English Bible with a membership of 450. Total number of individual correspondence students, 1,059. In addition to these there have been 92 Correspondence Clubs in the English Bible, with a membership of 1,167, and 57 Non-Correspondence Clubs with 665 members, making the whole number of students connected with the Institute in this department, 2,891. The number of new students enrolled during the year is 375 for individual instruction and 557 in clubs. Courses have been completed and certificates awarded to 42 students in Hebrew, 13 in New Testament Greek, and 19 in English Bible. Nearly 5,000 examination-papers have been corrected and returned, and about 3,000 letters have been written or dictated by instructors to the members of the School. These, together with the 8,000 or more

letters written by the Secretary and others in the general work of the Institute, give some idea of the large amount of details involved in a work of such proportions. A feature of special interest this year has been the effort made to extend the knowledge of the advantages offered by the Institute in the way of correspondence study among missionaries in foreign countries. From the secretaries of nearly all the foreign missionary societies of the United States, Canada, and Great Britain, the names and addresses of the missionaries laboring under their auspices were obtained, and circulars of information were sent out to about 2,400 in all parts of the world. Although much of this work was done too late in the year for the results to appear in this report, yet many inquiries for further information were received and twenty new members were enrolled from foreign countries in the last two or three months of the year. As more than fifty students outside of the United States and Canada were already on the roll before these additions were made, the representation in foreign lands is becoming quite large. The following countries are now represented in the membership: England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, Norway, Italy, Turkey, Syria, India, Assam, Burma, China, Corea, Japan, Australia, West and South Africa, Brazil, Bermuda, West Indies, Mexico, and Newfoundland. It may be added that missionary students, notwithstanding the disadvantages resulting from their great distance from the headquarters of the School, are, as a rule, very successful, their general average, both in the amount and quality of the work done by them, being considerably above that of students in the home land.

The Examination Department. January 10, 1892, as in the previous year, an examination was held in many different places in the United States and Canada, and in China and Japan, to test the biblical knowledge of those who entered for the examination. The subjects this year were the Life of Christ, based on the four gospels, and the Gospel of John. In the majority of cases, the examination papers were forwarded to the headquarters of the Institute, where they were read and approved or rejected. Certificates were awarded to between four and five hundred persons

whose work was approved. The applications already received for the examination to be held next January, on the Founding of the Christian Church, show that the record of last year will be largely exceeded. Fifty thousand circulars of this branch of the Institute's work have been distributed through individual correspondence and at denominational gatherings, at various conventions and summer schools, and through the officers of the Christian Endeavor Society and the King's Daughters. The examination plan of work is specially adapted to popular use, and has been not only cordially approved by the officers of the two organizations just named, but their constituency have been repeatedly recommended, through their official organs, *The Golden Rule* and *The Silver Cross*, to avail themselves of the help of the Institute in their Bible study. Steps have been taken toward active affiliation with other organizations which include the study of the Scriptures among their objects.

Other Lines of Work. Schools for the study of the Bible and the Biblical languages were held in connection with the summer schools at Chautauqua, N. Y., and Bay View, Mich. Circulars on Bible study were distributed at fifty Chautauqua assemblies throughout the country, and at many of them special conferences upon the work of the Institute were held. New Local Boards were organized in Washington, Baltimore, and Springfield, and the preliminary work has been done towards organization in other cities. Addresses on Biblical subjects were delivered by the Principal and Vice-Principal before Sunday-school associations, Christian Endeavor and Young Men's Christian Association conventions and at several universities. Very successful Bible Institutes were held in Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Chicago.

Work for the Coming Year. The various lines of effort in which the Institute has proved itself useful in the past will, of course, be continued. In the Correspondence Department at least two additional courses will be offered: one in New Testament Greek, and a second English Bible course on "The Founding of the Christian Church," based on the Acts, Epistles, and the Revelation. Proposed advances in the Examination Department have already

been mentioned. More and better work in the way of Bible Institutes and of Biblical lectures on the University Extension plan has been arranged for. A special circular on this subject announces thirteen lecturers and thirty-four courses of six lectures each. While the themes discussed are all in Biblical lines, a great variety of topics is offered from which to choose. Nearly all the lecturers have been connected with the work of the Institute in some way in the past, or have had experience in similar work through other organizations, so that this advance step is taken with much confidence in its success.

C. E. C.